

South Dakota

SHEEP AND LAMB PREDATOR LOSS

News Release

May 19, 2000

SOUTH DAKOTA PREDATOR LOSS

SIOUX FALLS, May 19, 2000 -- South Dakota sheep producers lost 13,800 sheep and lambs to predators out of a total death loss of 55,000 head in 1999, according to USDA's South Dakota Ag Statistics Service. Predator losses are down 9 percent from 1994, when 15,175 sheep and lambs were lost. Predator loss accounted for 25 percent of the total 1999 sheep and lamb deaths, while in 1994 they accounted for 23 percent of all deaths.

Predators killed sheep and lambs valued at \$788,000 in 1999, compared with \$672,475 in 1994. The value of sheep lost in 1999, at \$260,000, increased 60 percent over 1994, while the value of lambs lost, at \$528,000 in 1999, increased 4 percent.

Loss of Sheep, By Cause, South Dakota, 1994 and 1999

Cause of Loss	1994			1999		
	Number	% Total Pred.	% of Total	Number	% Total Pred.	% of Total
Predators						
Coyotes	1,925	79.4	9.6	2,300	82.1	14.4
Dogs	425	17.5	2.1	400	14.3	2.5
Other	75	3.1	0.4	100	3.6	0.6
Total	2,425	100.0	12.1	2,800	100.0	17.5
Other Causes 1/	17,575	-	87.9	13,200	--	82.5
Total	20,000	-	100.0	16,000	--	100.0

1/ Other causes include sickness, weather related and theft.

Loss of Lambs, By Cause, South Dakota, 1994 and 1999

Cause of Loss	1994			1999		
	Number	% Total Pred.	% of Total	Number	% Total Pred.	% of Total
Predators						
Coyotes	8,775	68.8	19.5	7,500	68.2	19.2
Dogs	700	5.5	1.5	600	5.5	1.5
Foxes	NA	NA	--	1,700	15.5	4.4
Eagles	NA	NA	--	700	6.4	1.8
Other	3,275	25.7	7.3	500	4.4	1.3
Total	12,750	100.0	28.3	11,000	100.0	28.2
Other Causes 1/	32,250	--	71.7	28,000	--	71.8
Total	45,000	--	100.0	39,000	--	100.0

1/ Other causes include sickness, weather related and theft.

For more information contact

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